

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated December 18, 2003. Claims 2, 4-11, 13, 15, 16, 18, 20, 21, and 23 are presented for examination, of which Claims 2, 10, 11, 13, 18, and 23 are in independent form. Claims 1, 12, 17, 22, 25-37, and 39-51 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 2, 5-7, 10, 11, 13, 16, 18, 21, and 23 have been amended to define more clearly what Applicants regard as their invention. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication that Claims 2, 4, 13, 15, 18, 20, and 23 would be allowable if rewritten so as not to depend from a rejected claim, and with no change in scope. Since Claims 2, 13, 18, and 23 have been so rewritten, they are now believed to be in condition for allowance. Claims 10 and 11 have been amended to to incorporate the recitation of allowable Claim 2 and are now believed to be in condition for allowance.

The other claims pending in this application, Claims 4-9, 15, 16, 20, and 21, depend from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed to be in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Samuel P. Diama", written over a horizontal line.

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